

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 IO-14 /072 W

-----019618 210029Z /21

O 210005Z JUN 77

FM USDEL GRENADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0076

UNCLAS GRENADA 0063

USOAS DEL 47

DEPT PASS AMREPS

FROM USDEL OASGA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PORG OAS

SUBJ: POLITICAL RALLY JUNE 19

1. GRENADA'S OPPOSITION LEADER MAURICE BISHOP YESTERDAY CALLED A POLITICAL RALLY TO PROTEST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN GRENADA. THE RALLY ORGANIZERS DID NOT HAVE A PERMIT TO USE A LOUD-SPEAKER AND THE POLICE USED THAT AS AN EXCUSE TO BREAK IT UP.

2. THE CROWD THEN MARCHED THROUGH THE TOWN CHANTING "HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS". TO USDEL OBSERVERS WHO HAPPENED TO BE AT A POINT DEMONSTRATORS PASSED, THE MOOD SEEMED EMOTIONAL BUT NOT VIOLENT. SHORTLY AFTER CROWD BEGAN TO MARCH, POLICE FIRED SHOTS, AND THE PEOPLE QUICKLY DISPERSED. POLICE CONFISCATED FILM FROM U.S. PHOTOGRAPHERS REPRESENTING AP AND UPI, BUT IT WAS RETURNED TODAY BY PM GAIRY AT PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. AT NINETY-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE, GAIRY GAVE HIS
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VERSION OF YESTERDAY'S EVENTS. HE RECOUNTED HIS 26-YEAR POLITICAL CAREER, EMPHASIZING THAT HE HAD BROUGHT PARTY POLITICS TO GRENADA AND THAT HIS PARTY AHD NEVER LOST AN ELECTION. HE ALSO ASCRIBED TO HIMSELF THE DIVINE RIGHT TO RULE THE COUNTRY.

4. GAIRY SAID THAT DISTORTED PRESS REPORTING ABOUT

GRENADA WAS LARGELY INSTIGATED BY THE OPPOSITION AND THEIR FRIENDS IN NEIGHBORING CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. THE OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE TRAITORS WHO HAD VISITED ALL THE OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TRYING TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR A BOYCOTT OF GRENADA, BUT THE ONLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE WAS FROM CHEDDI JAGAN IN GUYANA. THEY HAD OPPOSED EVERYTHING HE HAD DONE TO BENEFIT GRENADA, SUCH AS INVITING THE OAS TO MEET HERE, BUT THEY HAD FAILED. MANY OTHER COUNTRIES HAD TRIED TO GET THE OASGA BUT GRENADA, THE SMALLEST AND POOREST MEMBER STATE, HAD SUCCEEDED. HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE SECRETARIAT STAFF THAT THIS PROBABLY WAS THE BEST GA EVER.

5. GAIRY SAID OPPOSITION NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT WAS BEHIND THE DEMONSTRATION AND THAT THEIR PHILOSOPHY WAS SIMILAR TO COMMUNISM. THEY WANTED TO ABOLISH THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM AND ESTABLISH PEOPLE'S COURTS. THEY DID NOT WANT ELECTIONS BY BALLOT BUT "BY BULLET." HE SAID THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT LEADERS HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO CUBA, WHERE THEY RECEIVED WEAPONS TRAINING. IN HIS VIEW, THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT HAD INFLUENCED THE MINDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, LARGELY YOUNG COLORED PROFESSIONALS WHO WERE TRYING TO BE WHITE, AND HAD INCITED DISRESPECT FOR THE LAW. HE CHARGED THE OPPOSITION WITH BEING RACISTS WHO HAD SET A DATE FOR ALL WHITES TO BE EXTERMINATED, BUT HE SAID THEY DID NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMON MAN WHO BACKED GAIRY BECAUSE OF HIS WORK TO RAISE WAGES AND IMPROVE LIVING

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CONDITIONS.

6. GAIRY SAID HIS OWN PHILOSOPHY WAS BASED ON DIVINE INSPIRATION, AND HIS RELATION TO THE DIVINE WAS THE SECRET OF HIS STRENGTH. "GOD HAS A DESIGN FOR ME AND NO ONE CAN STOP ME." MANY ATTEMPTS HAD BEEN MADE ON HIS LIFE BUT "I NOW WALK SIX FEET OVER MY ASSAILANTS."

7. GAIRY SAID HE HAD A GOOD CONVERSATION WITH THE US SECRETARY OF STATE, WHO HAD INVITED HIM TO VISIT WASHINGTON. HE SAID "WE HAVE FOUND A NEW FRIEND IN SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE."

8. WHEN ASKED WHY THE POLICE HAD SHOT INTO THE CROWD, HE STRESSED POLICE HAD SHOT IN THE AIR TO DISPERSE THE CROWD AND HAD NOT SHOT AT THE PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT CROWDS TEND TO BECOME INTOXICATED--"ESPECIALLY CROWDS OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT, WHO ARE PARTICULARLY HOT--BLOODED."

9. ASKED ABOUT FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY IN GRENADA, GAIRY SAID THERE WAS COMPLETE FREEDOM OF ALL TYPES, BUT NO ONE COULD USE A LOUDSPEAKER OR CONDUCT A MARCH WITHOUT A PERMIT.

TO DO SO OTHERWISE WAS A VIOLATION OF LAW, HE SAID, AND HE WOULD RESIGN RATHER THAN PERMIT DISRESPECT FOR THE LAW. HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY THE BRITISH MANY YEARS AGO FOR USING A LOUDSPEAKER WITHOUT A PERMIT AND HAD BEEN CONVICTED AND PUNISHED.

10. ASKED WHY THE OPPOSITION WAS DENIED THE LOUDSPEAKER PERMIT FOR ITS RALLY, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT FELT IT INAPPROPRIATE TO WASH DIRTY LINEN IN PUBLIC DURING THE OAS CONFERENCE AND THAT ANYWAY, THE POLICE DID NOT HAVE TO GIVE ANY REASONS FOR DENYING PERMITS.

11. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE CHARGED THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A CONSPIRACY BETWEEN CORRESPONDENTS HERE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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THE OASGA AND "OUTSIDE SOURCES". HE CHARGED THAT THE INCIDENT AT THE MARKET HAD BEEN STAGE-MANAGED AND CORRESPONDENTS WERE INVITED TO ATTEND IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THERE WOULD BE TROUBLE.
MCGEE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770220-0451
Format: TEL
From: GRENADA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770636/aaaabfph.tel
Line Count: 147
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2085864
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL RALLY JUNE 19
TAGS: PORG, PINS, GJ, OAS, (BISHOP, MAURICE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dd556479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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